FILTERED ROUTER ALERT

HOP-BY-HOP OPTION

5   **ABSTRACT**

The present invention supports a filtered router flag value in an

information packet for packet-based communication networks. The pres-

ence of the filtered router flag value identifies the information packet as

10   possibly requiring a slow-path routing technique. The flag value could

also identify the router type or conditions that actually require slow-path

routing techniques. A router identifying the filtered router flag value will

forward the information packet to the signal processor for slow-path proc-

essing. A router not finding the filtered router flag value will forward the

15   information packet directly on the appropriate output for transmission onto

the network.